

Guidelines for the Preparation of Figures

Dimensions and proportions. Figures should be prepared keeping in mind the proportion of *JABA's* printed page: The height is 19.6 cm. The single-column width is 7.0 cm. The double-column width is 14.6 cm. The width to height proportion is 1:2.8 for a single column and 1:1.3 for a double column. To determine appropriate lettering size, line thickness, and clarity of data points, it is best to have figures reduced to single-column or double-column width. Authors should submit figures in these sizes so that Associate Editors and reviewers can judge their adequacy.

Data points. Data points must be constructed of thin lines and be of sufficient size so that reduction will neither obscure their differentiation nor fill in such symbols as unfilled circles, triangles, and squares.

Axes and lines. Avoid heavy lines for axes because they may make thin-lined lettering and data points appear disproportionately light. Do not use heavy lines to connect data points or to describe theoretical functions because they will de-emphasize or obscure data points. Provide scale marks along both axes at sufficiently frequent intervals to permit x and y values of data points to be read accurately. Be sure that axes meet at a right angle and that labels parallel their axes. Align scale marks with labels and data points.

Axis labels. “Percentage of” should be used instead of “Percent of” when labeling the ordinate axis (“percent of” is grammatically incorrect).

Legends. Legends identify the data points within the figure. Identify data paths with arrows and labels when possible. Use text boxes only when space is not available for arrows and labels.

Lettering. Avoid squat, heavy-lined, bold-faced type. Use comparatively tall, thin-lined,

narrow letters and numbers. It is best to use all capital letters, but do not hesitate to use upper and lower cases when needed to fit in the area available. It is better to use upper and lower cases in a readable size than it is to use all capitals in a smaller, more-difficult-to-read size.

Figure captions. The caption should explain the figure and should appear below the figures on the submitted version of the manuscript. One line of text will accommodate 52 characters and spaces for a single-column figure and 107 characters and spaces for a double-column figure. The height of each line of text is .35 cm. An additional .35 cm is needed between the bottom of a figure and its caption.